



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Great South Bay, NY

Maintenance Dredging

FACT SHEET

APRIL 2003

DESCRIPTION: Great South Bay federal channel is not scheduled for dredging in FY03 or FY 04.

AUTHORIZATION: The Federally improved channel was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 13 June 1902 and modified in 1970. The original project provides for a navigation channel 10 feet deep, 200 feet wide from Fire Island Inlet to the Central Basin in Great South Bay opposite Patchogue, thence 100 feet wide to mile 18.9 in the Patchogue River with a turning basin at the upper end at a depth of 11 feet, thence 8 feet deep to the upstream limit of the projects. The length of this project is approximately 19.1 miles and includes a stone jetty 1,700 feet long on the west side of the Patchogue River.

A reconnaissance report on Operations and Maintenance prepared in July 1979 concluded that no maintenance dredging is justified below 8 feet mlw for the entire channel length. The project was only 55% complete as of 1986.

STATUS: Maintenance dredging of the Federal channel at Great South Bay was last performed in 1992. Approximately 120,000 cubic yards of material was removed. Engineering and design efforts commenced in June 1999 for the dredging of the Patchogue River reach of the channel.

Preliminary assessment of the condition survey (dated April 1998) indicates that the area requiring dredging is the easternmost reach of the Federal channel, from about mile 17 to the head of the Patchogue River (roughly the last 1.9 miles of the channel). Preliminary sampling performed in November 1999 indicated that most of the material to be dredged in the Patchogue River consists of silt and clay that would not be suitable for beach disposal, and would require additional testing to determine if sediments are suitable for ocean disposal or for a particular upland disposal facility.

Approximately 150,000-200,000 cys of material have accumulated in the Bay and the Patchogue River reach of the channel. The NYSDEC-Stony Brook has engaged in recent discussions/meetings with the Village of Patchogue, the Town of Brookhaven and others to explore placement and dewatering of the dredged material at Sand Spit Parking Lot and a beneficial use disposal of the dredged material at a mine reclamation site. The NYD has ongoing discussions with the NYSDEC as conduit to local government and community interests at this juncture. A new condition survey is scheduled for Summer2003 as part of the Engineering & Design phase of the project. Need for dredging will be re-evaluated as the channel conditions are updated. No funds for dredging the project are presently allocated for FY04/05. The US Coast Guard is aware of any shoaling in the area that might compromise navigation.

CONTACT: Joseph Olha, Project Manager, (212) 264-5621, <mailto:joseph.olha@usace.army.mil>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>
District Area: NY #1,2